

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 29828 01 OF 02 121443Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 EURE-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 FEAE-00 INT-05 OES-05 AID-05

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TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 SWF-01 OMB-01 /132 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5085

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 29828

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: MB, EEC, EGEN, ENRG

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESS ON MARTINIQUE MEETING, ENERGY,
ECONOMY.

SUMMARY: GISCARD BEGINS VISITING THE DEPRESSED FRENCH
OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS IN THE CARRIBBEAN BEFORE HIS MEET
ING WITH FORD NEXT WEEKEND; THE POUND STERLING DIPS TO
AN ALL-TIME LOW AND THE FRENCH FRANC GAINS STRENGTH AS
ARAB FUNDS QUIT BRITAIN, ARE THE TOP STORIES IN THURSDAY
FRENCH PRESS. COMMENTS: GENERALLY UNENTHUSIASTIC
REACTIONS TO THE RECENT EUROPEAN SUMMIT; PROSPECTS FOR
THE GISCARD-FORD TALKS; ARABS CAUSE MONETARY PERTUR-
BATIONS; BRUSSELS NATO MEETINGS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE EUROPEAN SUMMIT MEETING RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE
ATTENTION WITH EXTENSIVE COMMENTS ON BOTH TELEVISION NET-
WORKS, WITH LONG EXCERPTS OF PRES. GISCARD'S PRESS
CONFERENCE AND REPORTS FROM ORTF CORRESPONDENTS IN
OTHER EUROPEAN CAPITALS. BOTH NETWORKS SAID REACTIONS
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PAGE 02 PARIS 29828 01 OF 02 121443Z

AROUND EUROPE WERE GENERALLY THAT OF "SATISFACTION"

BECAUSE NOT MUCH HAD BEEN EXPECTED FROM THIS SUMMIT ANYWAY, AND ALSO BECAUSE EACH ONE IS SEEING IN THE RESULTS A CONFIRMATION OF ITS OWN POSITION. "THIS IS UP TO THE TWO OF US NOW AMERICA* SAID ORTF II NOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FORD GISCARD MEETING BECAUSE FRANCO-US RELATIONS "HAVE NOT YET BEEN CLEARLY OR OFFICIALLY DEFINED" AND ALSO BECAUSE IT IS HAPPENING IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EUROPEAN SUMMIT. THE NETWORK CONCLUDED:- "IT WILL NOT BE EASY HOWEVER FOR THE FRENCH PRESIDENT TO SPEAK IN THE NAME OF A UNIFIED EUROPE FOR THE DIFFERENCES ARE STILL HERE ESPECIALLY ON ENERGY WHICH IS THE MOST DELICATE ISSUE, WITH EUROPE REMAINING VERY DIVIDED BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND FRENCH THEORIES ON THIS QUESTION."

2. UNDER A HEADLINE:"GISCARD, FORD: THE NECESSARY COMPROMISE," GABRIEL FARKAS WRITES IN FRANCE SOIR: "OIL WILL OF COURSE BE THE MAJOR TOPIC OF THE GISCARD-FORD TALKS IN MARTINIQUE. TWO POSITIONS ARE BEING AFFRONTED. GISCARD SAYS: 'NO POLICY OF CONFRONTATION. WE MUST EXTEND A HAND TO THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES. LET'S ORGANIZE A TRIPARTITE MEETING TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THEM. THE AMERICANS RESPOND: 'WE MUST FIRST OF ALL CLOSE RANKS, ORGANIZE OURSELVES TO FACE THE AGGRESSIVENESS BY THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU, THE FRENCH, SHOULD JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR ENERGY DESIGNED TO APPORTION OIL RESERVES BETWEEN THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES IN THE EVENT OF AN EMBARGO. AS FOR NEGOTIATING, WE SHALL SEE AFTER THAT'. BOTH POSITIONS ARE DOUBTLESS VERY FAR APART. YET A COMPROMISE IS NOT AT ALL TO BE RULED OUT. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT A CONSULTATION AMONG CONSUMERS REMAINS INDISPENSABLE BEFORE ANY NEGOTIATION WITH THE PRODUCERS. AGREEMENT MUST BE REACHED ON WHAT WE ARE GOING TO PROPOSE TO THEM, ON WHAT WE CAN ACCEPT, AND ON WHAT WE SHALL DO IF THE REGOTIATION IS NOT SUCCESSFUL. IT IS CLEAR THAT, FACING THE CARTEL OF OIL-PRODUCERS, THE WEST DOES NOT HAVE A GHOST OF A CHANCE IF IT REMAINS DIVIDED. AND THE AFFIRMATION -- VERY FASHIONABLE CURRENTLY -- THAT IT IS THE AMERICANS WHO ARE THREATENING THE INDEPENDENCE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PARIS 29828 01 OF 02 121443Z

OF EUROPE IS SIMPLY SENSELESS AT A TIME WHEN THE ARAB SHEIKHS ARE PREPARING TO RISE THE OIL PRICE AGAIN."

3. LE MONDE: MR. GISCARD D'ESTAING IS FLYING TO THE CARRIBEAN THURSDAY WHERE HE WILL HAVE TALKS WITH PRES. FORD OVER THE WEEKEND. THIS MEETING IS IMPORTANT, NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT IS THE FIRST OF THE KIND, BUT EVEN MORE BECAUSE FRANCO-AMERICAN AND EUROP-AMERICAN RELATIONS

ONCE MORE ARE GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT OR EVEN DANGEROUS PHASE...ACCORDING TO SOME SOURCES, THE US DOES NOT QUESTION THE FACT THAT THE POLICY OF THE EXTENDED HAND TO THE OIL PRODUCERS PROPOUNDED BY PARIS IS THE ONLY POSSIBLE ONE...BUT FOR MANY OTHERS, MR. KISSINGER'S SOLE IDEA IS TO DECREE A GENERAL MOBILIZATION OF THE 'FREE WORLD' AIMED AT INTIMIDATING THE ARAB COUNTRIES

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PAGE 01 PARIS 29828 02 OF 02 121442Z

44

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 29828

OR AT MAKING UNRULY ELEMENTS SUCH AS FRANCE FALL IN AGAIN OR ISOLATING THEM. AFTER THE OECD AGENCY FOR ENERGY, IN WHICH PARIS DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE THE SECSTATE'S NEW OBJECTIVE IS TO CREATE A FUND FOR RECYCLING PETRODOLLARS WHICH ACTUALLY WOULD ENABLE THE UNITED STATES TO STRENGTHEN ITS CONTROL OF THE ECONOMIES OF THE WESTERN POWERS AND OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE OIL PRODUCERS. A VAST PROGRAM* BEFORE THE MARTINIQUE TEST, WHICH, AS AN IMPORTANT MEMBER OF THE

FRENCH GOVERNMENT SAID, MIGHT BE A TEST OF STRENGTH, IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR MR. GISCARD D'ESTAING TO SECURE MAXIMUM SUPPORT. HE IS LEAVING FOR THE CARIBBEAN STRONG IN HIS RENEWED ENTENTE WITH MR. BREZHNEV AND IN THE MORAL AND MATERIAL CONTRACTS WHICH MR. CHIRAC AND MR. PONIATOWSKI WENT TO GET FROM THE NON-ALIGNED OIL-PRODUCERS IN BAGHDAD AND ALGIERS. BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR THE FRENCH PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE BEEN TO OBTAIN THE BACKING OF THE EUROPE OF THE NINE. THIS HIS PART-
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PAGE 02 PARIS 29828 02 OF 02 121442Z

NERS STINGILY BE GRUDGED HIM...

4. ALSO IN LE MONDE, FOREIGN EDITOR MICHEL TATU WRITES:
"GISCARD AND FORD WILL SEEK A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THEIR OIL STRATEGIES...SAUVAGNARGUES WILL PREPARE THE (FORD-GISCARD) MEETING BY A CONVERSATION WITH KISSINGER IN THE BACKGROUND OF THE MEETING OF THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL IN BRUSSELS...THE CLIMATE OF FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS IS LESS A MATTER OF MEN THAN A MATTER OF REALITIES. BOTH THE SUCCESSORS OF GEN.DE GAULLE AND THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS ALL TOOK OFFICE AMID A CONCERT OF SPECULATIONS ABOUT THEIR 'GOOD DISPOSITIONS' TOWARD THE US AND THEIR EAGERNESS TO LIQUIDATE OUTSTANDING ISSUES AND TO RESTORE THE TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP. BUT AFTER A MORE OR LESS LONG LAPSE OF TIME, THE OLD QUARRELS WERE REPLACED BY NEW PROBLEMS, RELATIONS COOLED OFF AND THE DISAPPOINTED AMERICANS HAD TO CONVINCE THEMSELVES THAT FRANCE IS DEFINITELY THE 'ODD MAN OUT OF EUROPE...
IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IT IS BECAUSE FRANCE WITH HER NUCLEAR FORCE, CONSIDERS HERSELF LESS DEPENDENT (THAN HER EUROPEAN PARTNERS) ON THE U.S. FOR HER SECURITY THAT SHE WANTS TO DISASSOCIATE HERSELF FROM THE UNITED STATES ON EVERY POSSIBLE OCCASION. IT IS BECAUSE GERMANY, DESPITE HER ECONOMIC POWER, IS EXACTLY IN THE OPPOSITE SITUATION, THAT SHE GIVES PRIORITY TO HER RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. MOST OF EUROPE'S PROBLEMS ISSUE FROM THIS CONTRADICTION. THIS CONTRADICTION IN ANY CASE IS NOT CLEARLY SEEN BY THE AMERICAN LEADERS. TO MANY WASHINGTON OFFICIALS -- BUT PERHAPS NOT TO MR. KISSINGER HIMSELF -- AMERICA IS MOST UNSELFISH IN HER EAGERNESS TO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD...THESE LEADERS THUS SEE NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN A EUROPEAN COHESION WHICH THEY SAY THEY WISH TO PROGRESS AND AMERICAN POLICY. SUCH IS NOT THE WIDELY SHARED OPINION IN FRANCE -- EXCEPT FOR A FEW OUT OF STEP PEOPLE SUCH AS GENERAL STEHLIN -- EVEN THOUGH SOME PUT THE ACCENT ON THE VIRTUE OF THE RECONCILIATION MORE THAN OTHERS. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER MR. GISCARD WILL BE ABLE TO CONVINCE HIS

COUNTERPART OF THIS."

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UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 PARIS 29828 02 OF 02 121442Z

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